

GIBBS HB 6243

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Bill Gibbs, I have been a CT licensed massage therapist (Lic. #001444) since 1996 and a Thai massage practitioner since 2007.

Last year the Legislature passed HB 5455 requiring, among other things, that anyone practicing or advertising Shiatsu, acupressure or any of the variation on Thai yoga massage be a state licensed massage therapist. This was generally considered to be a well thought out, well written and effective law.

Now, unfortunately, due to complaints from some yoga teachers in Fairfield the laws original sponsor, Auden Grogins, has introduced HB6243, which would remove the name “Thai Yoga” from the list of modalities requiring a massage license. Thai Yoga is no different than Thai massage. It involves the “mobilization of the soft tissue which may include skin, fascia, tendons, ligaments, and muscles, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining good physical condition”. It doesn't matter what name you put on it, it is by definition massage and just because some people were previously practicing outside the law is no reason to change that law. These people do not have the necessary training in anatomy and physiology, pathology or contraindications for massage. Allowing them to practice is a danger to the public and a slap in the face to those of us who have spent the time and money to properly and legally learn massage and Thai massage.

This bill would also defeat the purpose of the original by providing sex workers and human traffickers with another euphemism to hide behind.

Please vote against HB 6243.

Thank You,
Bill Gibbs, LMT
CT Lic. #001444